

# **STATEMENT**

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**Osh Technological University**

**69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

**Side event**

***"Advocating for Mountain Women and Girls' Education through  
Student-Engaged Learning"***

**March 11, 2025**

Hello everyone. I thank you, dear Permanent Representative of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United Nations, Ambassador Aida Kasymalieva for gathering this important side event advocating for mountain women and girls through education. We appreciate that for the third time you invite us to speak about our joint actions with our colleagues from the State of Utah. As representative of Osh Technological University, located in the city of Osh, the Kyrgyz Republic, I would like to add my voice in support of mountain women to be included in the resolution of this session, which revises the famous Beijing Declaration.

As my colleague, Dr. Almaz Atabekov said, since 2012, OshTU jointly advocates for the sustainable development of mountain communities with Utah Valley University. He laid a solid foundation for my involvement with my students from the Geology Department in this fruitful partnership.

Since the fall of 2021, our faculty and students jointly with UVU advocated for mountain families, women, and girls through the student-engaged learning educational initiative. This model encourages students to work together as one team to resolve a certain practical issue and the faculty assists them through mentorship. In our case, we focus our students' efforts on the promotion of sustainability for our local mountain communities. Due to this, such a student-centric approach makes them directly involved with the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development.

UVU has used the SEL model since 2011 and now we are using it at our own Osh Technological University. We implement the SEL model together with the Utah International Mountain Forum, a coalition of student clubs at UVU, led by

Janessa-Purcell and its mentor, Dr. Baktybek Abdrisaev. Together, we will be able to highlight the complex problems facing mountain communities.

This has been a great program where the interaction of our two cultures allows students and faculty to see different perspectives on the challenges in the lives of mountain women. With new knowledge and skills gained through this joint effort, we can empower first ourselves and then our local communities. This will be our contribution to the Five five-year Action for Sustainable Development of Mountain regions and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Thank you again.